

Testimony of Daniel Flores
Charter Oak State College Student
Appropriations Committee
February 15, 2017

Good evening members of the Appropriations Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify before you tonight.

Thank you for allowing me to speak on behalf of Charter Oak State College. My name is Daniel Flores. I have been a student at Charter Oak since 2015 and am now a senior. Before Charter Oak, I was out of college for five years due to financial hardship. It was difficult for me to pursue higher employment opportunities in my local school district without continuing my education and Charter Oak provided me with an alternative route to continuing my education. It caters to the working class citizens while offering challenging academic rigor. Before enrolling to Charter Oak, I went through a rehabilitation program with the department of education to undo the default status of my FASA; Charter Oak was instrumental in helping me get back into education after having stopped out for so long and dealing with funding.

Not only did Charter Oak work with me in getting back into school and on track, but their courses and self-directed method of learning was very practical and affordable. Charter Oak has worked with me to ensure that I can pay for my tuition, whether it is through tuition reimbursement with my employer, or grants; Charter Oak truly believes in investing in their students. If a person is serious about change, Charter Oak is where he/she can take his skill sets, make goals, and turn them into reality.

I currently work for the New Britain Board Of Education, and am a recent recipient of the 2016 District Finalist Para Educator award. I believe I won the award because of Charter Oak and the ASE (after school education) courses in my work practices. Through the Child and Youth Development program at Charter Oak State College, I have become a better mentor, leader, and advocate for my students and ask you to keep Charter Oak in mind when making decisions in favor of the colleges and universities that makes a difference.

Thank you for your time.